

AMHERST/LA PAZ CENTRO

Minutes

Monday, June 4, 2012

PRESENT: Carol and Paul Baker, Liz and Teagan Fleiner-Etheridge, Chuck and Nancy Milch, Kathy Mullin, Mary Santiago, Anne Stanek.

LIZ AND MARY'S TRIP

Liz and Mary leave for Nicaragua this coming Saturday, June 9th from Boston. They will take with them:

1. Big Y bags painted by Carol Baker and Wendy Yaffe as gifts for the LPC Comite. Liz will put notebooks and pencils/pens in them from the Dollar Store.
2. Spanish/English Dictionaries that Mary bought from Amazon for the scholarship students (\$6.50 each)
3. Two sets of beginning Spanish readers as samples to show educators in Nicaragua. Michele Dufresne is happy to donate several sets to schools in La Paz Centro, which the Delegation can take with them in February.
4. A sample bag made by Nancy out of carpet squares and a tie. This might be a possible project for folk in La Paz Centro.

Kathy has been successful at making a connection with the Norwalk Nagarote Coordinator (who speaks English). Mary and Liz will meet with this man and his attorney to discuss the banking situation. They have also experienced a frozen bank account so can perhaps advise us as to what we should do. Mary will ask what the cost of meeting with the attorney might be.

EARTH DAY CELEBRATION

Julio reports that the Earth Day Celebration organized by the Peace Corps volunteer, Julie, and others was a big success. It was attended by folk as far away as Leon. Julie requested \$50 to cover the costs of materials that she bought for the program. We suggested that she submit receipts to Julio, who would then submit them to Mary and Liz, who would have the cash on hand to pay for them. They will then have a discussion with Julie about going through Julio for fund requests and making sure ahead of time that items are covered unless she wants to pay herself out of pocket.

BUDGET

Kathy made us a very clear copy of the budget, along with a list of receipts that Mary and Liz are going to request from Julio. It seems that we are about \$3000 over on the budget if the amount we project to raise in 2012 and the costs we project are the same as Kathy has calculated. This means that we have to cut back on costs. Mary and Liz will have a conversation with Julio about this problem – especially about the electricity. Kathy suggests that we shouldn't buy backpacks for the students as they don't need new backpacks every year and they often don't use the ones they are given.

Mary and Liz are going to suggest that the Tutors keep an attendance notebook to keep track of what students are coming to the tutoring sessions.

TAG SALE

Anne will reserve the Town Common area for the annual Tag Sale, which will be on Saturday, September 8th this year.

Our next meeting will be on WEDNESDAY, JULY 18TH AT 7:30 PM IN THE LOWER INTERNAL MEETING ROOM OF THE BANGS CENTER.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Stanek

Chair